

RECEIVED
JAN 12 2000

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

entitled to the benefit of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) of French Patent Application No. FR95/01662, filed February 14, 1995 and that the Marshall reference, published in the August 25, 1995 issue of *Science*, is not available as prior art to the instant application. Accordingly, the cited combination of references cannot possibly teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention and, therefore, fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Applicants submit herewith a certified English translation of co-pending foreign priority document FR95/01662 filed February 14, 1995 in France. Applicants claimed the benefit of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to co-pending application FR95/01662 in their Declaration and Power of Attorney, submitted May 22, 1998. In addition, Applicants amended the Specification to indicate their foreign priority to application FR95/01662 in the amendment submitted December 8, 1999. Applicants submit that the enclosed certified English translation of application FR95/01662 perfects their foreign priority claim. Accordingly, the Marshall reference cited by the Examiner is not available as prior art to Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants request respectfully that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an action passing this case to issue are therefore requested respectfully. If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of this application, Applicant's agent invites the Examiner to contact her at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel H. Rondinelli, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 45,052

Dated: January 7, 2000

Aventis Pharmaceuticals Products Inc.
P.O. Box 5093, Mail Drop 3C43
Collegeville, PA 19426-0997
Telephone: (610) 454-3178
Facsimile: (610) 454-3808